



LIESSE ANIMAL CLINIC

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Dr. R. J. Langill ~ Serving the community since 1950

HEARTWORM IN QUEBEC

Heartworm is mainly a disease of dogs. The infection can also affect cats. The adult worms live in the heart and lungs, and may grow to be 8 inches long. They may cause severe illness in dogs and cats.

Mosquitoes transmit heartworm from infected animals, to other animals. Heartworm disease has been a persistent problem in Quebec since 1984. The following areas of Quebec, and their surroundings are infected with heartworm disease:

BLAINVILLE	LEGARDEUR	ST. SAUVEUR
CAP ROUGE	MASCOUCHE	STE. ANNE DE PLAINES
HUDSON	ST. JEAN CRYSTOME	ST. SOPHIE
JOLIETTE	ST. EUSTACHE	STE. THERESE
L'ASSUMPTION	ST. JEROME	VARENNE
LACHUTE	ST. LAZARE	
LAVAL	ST. LIN	

Any dogs and cats that visit these endemic areas of Quebec, between May and August, would be at a high risk to develop heartworm infection.

The incidence of heartworm on the Island of Montreal is very low. Pets that do not travel to endemic regions are at a very low risk to develop heartworm.

Preventing heartworm disease is easy. There are very effective medications available to prevent pets from developing heartworm disease, even if an infective mosquito has bitten them.

The medication is given once monthly, from June till November. Some blood testing is necessary in dogs, to assure that your pet is free of heartworm disease, usually every 3 years.